1955, the standard prescribed for foodgrains includes a maximum limit of 5 pieces of rodent hair and excreta and 100 mg. of uric acid per kg. of foodgrains.

The prescription of this limit has been found necessary in view of the inability, despite efforts, to completely eliminate these contaminants during storage of food grains at the corporate, non-corporate and farm levels.

As per available information no study has been carried out on the long term toxic effects of eating foodgrains mixed with rat excreta. However, the Central Committee on Food Standards, a Statutory Committee set up under the PFA Act, have suggested that a review be made of the PFA standard for foodgrains and cereals in consultation with the agencies in charge of food production and storage.

Gauge conversion projects of Himachal Pradesh

*293. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some gauge conversion projects are to be launched in different districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, districtwise with present position and the estimated amount to be spent on each;

(c) whether some projects have already been launched in that State;

(d) if so, the details thereof, districtwise, with present position and estimated amount spent so far on each;

(e) whether such gauge conversion would seriously affect ecology of the State; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to maintain ecological balance in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A survey has been taken up for conversion of Jogindernagar-Pathankot line in Himachal Pradesh. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available. The question of expenditure on this project will arise if and when the project is sanctioned in the budget and taken up. District-wise details are not maintained by the Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir, as this would be only a gauge conversion project of a line already existing.

(f) Does not arise.

Construction of new buildings of Railway Stations in Assam

*294. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating construction of new buildings of railway stations in Assam and other North East states;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of Railway stations modernised/renovated during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and those proposed for renovation during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New station buildings are to be constructed at various stations identified along the following new line projects:—

1. Jogighopa—Guwhati
2. Diphu—Karong
3. Dudhnoi—Depa
4. Kumarghat—Agartala
5. Harmati—Itanagar

(c) Station buildings were modernised/renovated during 1993-94 at New Bongaigaon and during 1995-96 at Gosaigaonhat, Silchar, Ledo and Tinsukia. Renovation of Rangiya and Dimapur stations is proposed during the current year.